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Third Ecumenical Missionary Conference (June 1910).



MINUTES OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.

MEETING, 14th-20th JULY 1908.

(Approved by General Committee on 23rd September 1908.)

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Sederunt.

1. The International Committee appointed to make arrangements for the Ecumenical Missionary Conference began its meetings at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, on Tuesday, 14th July, at 2.30 p.m. There were present for the whole or part of the time:—Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., Boston; Mr. John R. Mott, New York; Mr. Silas M'Bee, New York; Rev. Canon L. Norman Tucker, Toronto; Rev. Arthur J. Brown, D.D., New York; Rev. W. H. Rankine, Glasgow; Rev. George Robson, D.D., Edinburgh; Rev. J. Fairley Daly, B.D., Glasgow; Duncan M'Laren, Esq., Edinburgh; Herr Missionar Frohnmeyer, Basel; Herr Pastor Julius Richter, D.D., Schwanebeck, Belzig, Germany; Dr. Karl Fries, Ph.D., Stockholm; Rev. J. Wardlaw Thompson, D.D.; Rev. W. H. Findlay, London; Rev. J. H. Ritson, London; Rev. Prebendary Fox, London; Rev. Tissington Tatlow, London; Rev. C. E. Wilson, London; Mr. J. H. Oldham, Edinburgh.

Prayer and Minutes.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the Executive Committee, constituting the International Committee were read. Mr. Duncan M'Laren, Chairman of the Executive Committee, was elected Chairman, and it was agreed that Mr. J. H. Oldham should act as Secretary in the place of the Rev. James Buchanan, who was unable to be present.

Business Committee.

2. A Business Committee, consisting of the Rev. W. H. Findlay, Mr. John R. Mott, Dr. Julius Richter, the Chairman, and the Secretary, was appointed to arrange the order in which business should be brought before the Committee. On the report of the Business Committee it was agreed that there should be a devotional meeting each morning from 9-9.30 a.m., and that the Committee should meet daily during the hours 9.30-12, 4.30-6.30, and 8-9.30, leaving the remainder of the day free for meetings of Sub-Committees.

Letter from Rev. James Buchanan.

3. A letter was read from the Rev. James Buchanan, Secretary of the General Committee of the Conference, expressing regret that on account of ill-health he was unable to be present at the meeting of the International Committee. The Chairman was instructed to send a telegram to Mr. Buchanan, expressing the regret of the Committee at his enforced absence, and their sympathy with him in his illness.

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4. The Committee proceeded to consider what aspects of missionary policy and work seemed most to require careful investigation by selected Commissions. Lists of possible subjects were submitted by Dr. Robson and Mr. John R. Mott. A Sub-Committee, consisting of the Rev. George Robson, D.D., Convener, Mr. John R. Mott, Rev. W. H. Findlay, Dr. Julius Richter, and the Secretary, was appointed to compare and elaborate the suggestions made, and to prepare a draft list of subjects as the basis of discussion. After report by the Sub-Committee, and prolonged discussion, it was finally agreed that Commissions should be appointed to deal with the following subjects, it being understood that these subjects do not represent the programme of the Conference, which will necessarily include a much more extensive range of topics, but have been selected as calling for special inquiry and study, with a view to their being considered in consultative sessions of Conference.

Subjects for Investigation by Commissions.

I. CARRYING THE GOSPEL TO ALL THE WORLD.

- Unoccupied and under-occupied fields.
- Forces and means required for different fields.
- Methods of advance and occupation.

Special considerations rendering the work urgent, *e.g.* the aggressions of Islam, the Buddhist revival, and the awakening of the East.

Under the direction of this Commission a Sub-Committee shall prepare a survey of present missionary operations.

II. THE NATIVE CHURCH AND ITS WORKERS.

1. *Native Church.*

Present conditions in respect of self-support, self-government, evangelistic effort, and special hindrances to the development of Church life.

The relation of the organisation of the Church to native institutions existing prior to the introduction of Christianity.

Movements towards national Churches and native missionary societies.

Relation of the Home Church to the promotion of the independence of native Churches, and to the safeguarding of them from perils (*e.g.* eclecticism in thought, overburdening with Western organisations, etc.)

2. *Native Workers.*

Present conditions in respect of—(a) Classes of workers; (b) Relation to missionaries; (c) Responsibilities entrusted to them.

Further steps to devolve larger responsibilities upon them.

III. EDUCATION IN RELATION TO THE CHRISTIANISATION OF NATIONAL LIFE.

(1) The Christianisation of national thought and character, especially through—(a) Institutions of higher learning; (b) Literature.

(2) The creation of Christian leaders for—(a) The Christian ministry; (b) Other Christian service; (c) Civic life.

IV. THE MISSIONARY MESSAGE IN RELATION TO NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS.

The elements of Christianity which have most influenced non-Christians.

The Christian apologetic in relation to—(a) Hinduism; (b) Buddhism; (c) Islam; and (d) Animistic religions.

V. THE PREPARATION OF MISSIONARIES.

- (1) At home.
- (2) In the field.

VI. THE HOME BASE OF MISSIONS.

How to engage the energies and resources of the whole Church in the missionary enterprise—

(1) Knowledge of Missions through, *e.g.*, Mission study, literature, etc.

(2) Intercessory prayer.

(3) Personal service.

(4) Financial contributions—(a) Spiritual basis; (b) Increased amount.

(5) New forward movements, *e.g.*—(a) Student Volunteer Movement; (b) Young People's Missionary Movement; (c) Laymen's Missionary Movement. Their relationship to denominational societies; their progress and promise.

(6) Ministerial leadership.

VII. RELATION OF MISSIONS TO GOVERNMENTS.

Home, Foreign, and Colonial.
 Diplomatic relationships.
 Limits of co-operation with Governments.
 Conservation of the spiritual (non-political and non-civil) character of the missionary enterprise.

Subjects for
 Investigation
 by Com-
 missions.

VIII. CO-OPERATION AND PROMOTION OF UNITY.

Plans in operation.
 Advantages.
 Possibilities.

5. A Sub-Committee, consisting of Dr. Barton (Convener), the Rev. J. H. Ritson, the Rev. Tissington Tatlow, Herr Missionar Frohn Meyer, and the Chairman, was appointed to prepare and bring in suggestions relating to the constitution and the procedure of the Commissions to be appointed. On report of the Sub-Committee, and after discussion, the following Resolutions were adopted:—

Constitution
 of the
 Commissions.

(1) That no one be on a Commission who does not consent actively to participate in the work of the Commission.

(2) That competent persons, men and women, lay and clerical, not necessarily limited to residents in Europe and America, shall be entitled to serve on the Commissions.

(3) That while the Commissions shall be as far as possible representative of different churches and countries, this consideration shall be regarded as secondary to personal fitness and qualification.

(4) That the size of each Commission shall be determined by the nature of the subject under consideration, the minimum number upon any one Commission being ten, and the maximum twenty.

(5) That the International Committee shall appoint as far as possible the Commissioners, designating the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who shall represent different countries. All vacancies shall be filled as hereinafter provided for.

(6) That those members of each Commission residing within practicable distance of the Chairman shall constitute an Executive Committee, which shall meet as the work of the Commission demands. In a similar manner, those members of each Commission

residing within practicable distance of the Vice-Chairman shall constitute an Advisory Council. Each Commission shall be left free to develop its own organisation as it may deem necessary.

(7) That the necessary expenses of travel, clerical assistance, printing, and postage, in connection with the work of the several Commissions on each Continent be met by the American and British Committees respectively.

Procedure
of the
Commissions.

6. (1) That a Central Advisory Committee be appointed in Britain to communicate with the Commissioners, and transmit to them the instructions of the International Committee.

(2) That the Chairman of each Commission, in consultation with his Executive and Vice-Chairman, shall make a detailed list of the questions on which it is proposed to secure information, and submit it to the Central Advisory Committee for suggestion before instituting enquiries.

(3) That the Commissions shall gather up-to-date information on their respective subjects from original sources, and from men and women of various nationalities in all parts of the world.

(4) That the Chairman shall be responsible for the classification of the material and the preparation—first, of a Draft Report to be submitted to the members of the Commission for criticism; and, secondly, of the Final Report revised in the light of suggestions received.

(5) Each Report shall close with "findings," representing the opinions of at least a majority of its Commissioners.

(6) Each Commission is expected to give in its Report sufficient sifted material to indicate how its "findings" have been reached.

(7) Not later than the end of December 1909, the Chairman of each Commission shall send to every member of the same, and also to the members of the Central Advisory Committee, proof copies of the first draft of the Report with the proposed findings.

(8) The final printing of the Reports shall be under the direction of the Central Advisory Committee. The Reports of the Commissioners shall be ready for sale not later than 1st May 1910. To prevent the premature reprinting of the Reports, copyright should be taken out.

(9) Before the Reports are discussed in the Conference, the Commissioners present at the Conference shall meet to consider the plan of presentation, and any other matters bearing upon their work.

(10) Each Commission shall have not more than thirty minutes in which to introduce its Report, and thereafter no member of the

Commission shall speak on the subject unless called upon by the Chairman of the Conference.

7. The following Resolutions were agreed to regarding the constitution and work of the Central Advisory Committee:—

Constitution
of Central
Advisory
Committee.

(1) The Central Advisory Committee shall consist of six British members of this International Committee.

(2) Its work shall be—(a) to carry out the instructions of the International Committee in relation to appointments on the Commissions and the filling of vacancies. (b) To transmit to the Commissions the instructions of the International Committee with reference to their work, together with such explanations as seem to be necessary. (c) To examine and compare the sets of preliminary questions prepared by the Commissions, with a view to calling attention to any points on which there might be risk of overlapping or omission. (d) To receive the Draft Reports of the Commissions, and offer any suggestions which seem to be called for.

(3) Beyond carrying out the instructions of the International Committee, this Committee shall have only advisory powers.

8. (1) The Committee shall intimate their appointment to the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, and members of the Commissions, and take all suitable steps to secure their acceptance.

Instructions
to Central
Advisory
Committee.

(2) In the event of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or their respective alternatives failing to serve, it shall be left with the Central Advisory Committee to fill the vacancy.

(3) The Central Advisory Committee shall fill all other vacancies after consultation with the Chairman of the Commission.

(4) In the event of Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, or members of Commission belonging to the American Continent being unable to serve, the vacancies shall be filled by the American Executive Committee.

9. The following were appointed to be the members of the Central Advisory Committee:—

Members of
Central
Advisory
Committee.

The Rev. GEORGE ROBSON, D.D. (*Chairman*).

„ Prebendary H. E. FOX.

„ R. WARDLAW THOMPSON, D.D.

„ W. H. FINDLAY.

Mr. DUNCAN M'LAREN.

„ J. H. OLDHAM (*Secretary*).

Appointment
of Com-
missions.

10. The Sub-Committee submitted to the Committee a list of names for appointment to the several Commissions. The list, after careful revision, was approved by the Committee, and the persons therein named were appointed to act upon the various Commissions respectively. It was remitted to the Central Advisory Committee to make intimation of the appointments, to receive acceptances or declinatures, and to fill up vacancies in accordance with the instructions already approved, and thereafter to report the completed lists to the General Committee.

Appointment
of Secretary.

11. On the motion of Mr. John R. Mott, seconded by Rev. Prebendary H. E. Fox, it was unanimously resolved that it is essential to appoint a Secretary to the Central Advisory Committee who should be in a position to give a large portion of his time to this work, and who should also be Acting- or Assistant-Secretary to the General and Executive Committees, and at an early date be prepared to give his whole time to the work of these two offices, and who should receive a suitable salary. The International Committee being deeply impressed with the pre-eminent qualifications of Mr. J. H. Oldham, M.A., unanimously and earnestly invited him to accept the office of Secretary to the Central Advisory Committee, and requested the General Committee to ratify this appointment. They further requested the General Committee at their first meeting to appoint Mr. Oldham to the office of Acting- or Assistant-Secretary, and to grant him an Assistant-Secretary and such other help as may be required for so long a period as may be necessary.

The Rev. Prebendary Fox was requested to prepare a letter to be sent in the name of the International Committee to the United Free Church of Scotland Mission Study Council and the Student Christian Movement, asking them to set Mr. Oldham free to accept the Secretaryship of the Conference in view of the importance of the issues involved.

Securing
Efficient Work
of the
Commissions.

12. In view of the immense importance of the work to be undertaken by the Commissions, the International Committee agreed to recommend to the British and American Executive Committees that the Commissions should be provided with all the financial help that may be needed for the efficient carrying out of their work.

The need of
Prayer.

13. It was agreed to call the attention of the Executive and General Committees to the immense importance of taking steps to invite prayer on behalf of the Conference throughout the world,

14. Considerable discussion took place regarding the best means of securing co-operation of missionaries on the field in the work of the Conference. The following resolution was finally agreed to:—

Enlisting the help of Missionaries.

It is recommended that existing organisations in the various Mission fields and in the Colonies, which, by virtue of their constitution and functions, are fitted to furnish valuable information or opinions, be appointed corresponding bodies of this Conference, and that the Chairmen of the Commissions be put into communication with them. Also it is recommended that a list of natives and missionaries be prepared, from which corresponding members may be selected to be associated with the different Commissions. The names and addresses of such shall be put into the hands of the Chairmen of the respective Commissions for purposes of correspondence and enquiry.

The carrying out of this resolution was remitted to the Central Advisory Committee.

15. In view of the fact that the word "Ecumenical" has acquired a technical meaning, and has been found in some instances to lead to misunderstanding, it was agreed to recommend that the name of the Conference should be changed to "World Missionary Conference, 1910."

Name of the Conference.

16. It was resolved to recommend that, whereas the purpose of the Conference is research and consultation regarding missionary work and problems, no resolution shall be placed before the Conference for vote unless it has first been submitted to, and approved by, two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee, or such other committee as may be constituted for this purpose; and no resolution shall be allowed which involves questions of doctrine or Church polity with regard to which the Churches or Societies taking part in the Conference differ among themselves.

Passing of Resolutions at the Conference.

17. It was agreed that in the notice sent to Missionary Societies regarding the number of their delegates, they should be asked to include in their delegations some of their leading missionaries, and also, if practicable, one or two natives from mission lands. It was further agreed that the Missionary Societies be requested to include in their delegation those members of their own Society who had been appointed to the various Commissions or as corresponding members of the Conference.

Delegates to the Conference.

Letter of
Instructions
to Chairmen.

18. Dr. Barton submitted a report of the Sub-Committee appointed to draw up a letter of instructions to Chairmen of Commissions. The draft letter was approved generally, and it was remitted to the Secretary to put the letter into its final shape, and to submit it for final approval to the Central Advisory Committee.

Exhibit.

19. It was agreed that it would not be desirable to hold a Missionary Exhibition in connection with the Conference either in Edinburgh or Glasgow, but that the question of the advisability of having a scientific exhibit illustrating missionary literature and appliances should be left over for later consideration.

Vote of
Thanks.

20. The Secretary was instructed to convey to Dr. Griffith-Thomas the cordial thanks of the International Committee, for his kindness in granting the use of Wycliffe Hall for the meetings of the Committee and the accommodation of its members.

Printing of
Minutes.

21. It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting of the International Committee should be printed uniformly with those of the Executive Committee.

Meetings
resumed in
London.

22. The meetings of the International Committee were resumed in the Bible House, London, on Monday, 20th July, at 11.30 a.m.

There were present:—Mr. Duncan M'Laren (Chairman), the Rev. Prebendary H. E. Fox, the Rev. George Robson, D.D., the Rev. Canon Tucker, the Rev. Arthur J. Brown, D.D., the Rev. James Barton, D.D., the Rev. J. H. Ritson, the Rev. J. Fairley Daly, Mr. John R. Mott, Mr. Silas M'Bee, Herr Missionar Frohmeyer, and Herr Dr. Julius Richter.

Steps to be
taken to
increase
Interest in the
Conference.

23. Dr. Arthur Brown stated that the American Executive Committee had appointed three Special Committees on—(1) Press, (2) Leaflets, (3) Public Meetings.

It was agreed that this matter be left to the Executive Committees in Britain and America to take what steps they considered best to secure the end in view, and that they should communicate to one another what they finally agreed upon.

Places for
Missionaries.

24. It was remitted to the Executive Committee to consider how many places in the galleries could be assigned to missionaries and members of Mission Boards not delegates, and to inform the American Executive what their share would be.

Closed with prayer and the benediction.

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